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AUTHOR	Chang, Roberta
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ABSTRACT

Presented in this booklet are brief descriptions of items and activities that are symbolic of Korean culture. Some of the items and activities described include traditional Korean clothing and accessories, dolls, fans, a Korean game called "yut," tape recordings of Korean music, a "buhk" (drum), and brass eating utensils. A map of Korea, some Korean phrases, and several recipes for Korean dishes are also included. A book list and a resource list are provided. (EB)

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THINGS KOREAN

by Roberta Chang
illustrated by Roger Moses
consultant Dong Jae Lee

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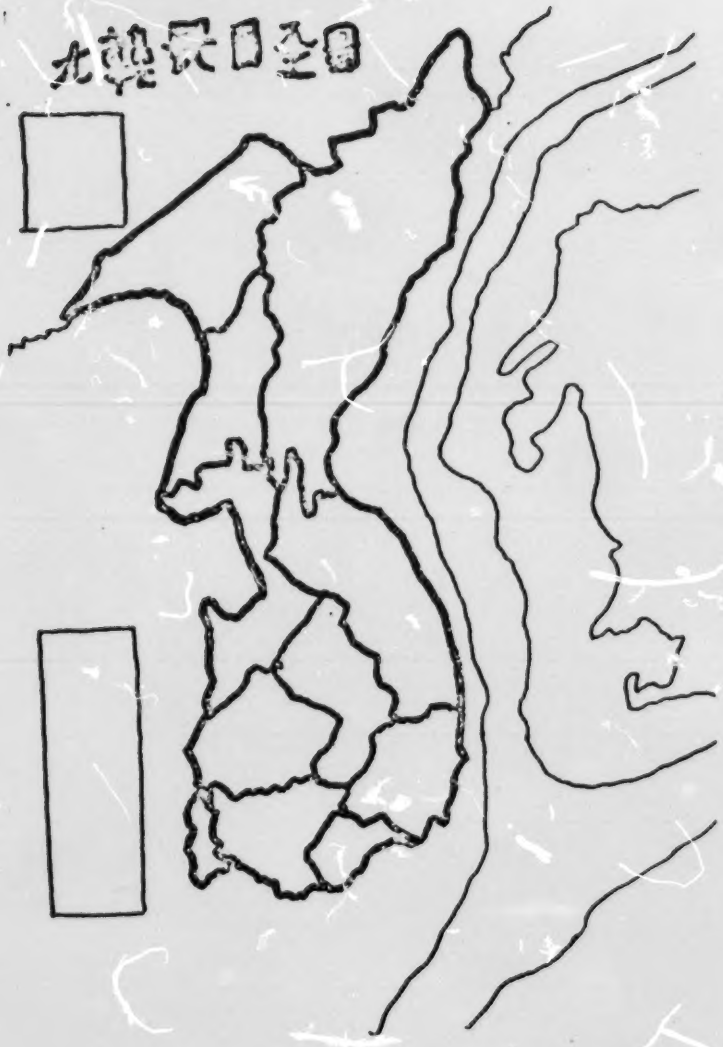
CHECKLIST OF KIT CONTENTS

1 copy, Things Korean
1 map
1 flag
1 child's outfit
1 pair rubber shoes
1 pair cotton socks
1 silk purse
1 fan
1 yut game (4 yut, 4 red pawns, 4 green pawns, 1 cotton yut board)
1 set brass eating utensils (1 ricebowl with cover, 1 spoon, 1 pair chopsticks)
1 female doll
1 male doll
1 buhk (drum)
1 copy, A Korean Legend Hungbu and Nolbu and Korean Songs We Can Sing
1 copy, We Want to be Americans: The Story of a Korean Family in Hawaii
1 cassette taperecording

MAP



Korea is a country in Asia. It is a peninsula surrounded by water on all sides except the north. China is on one side of the sea and Japan is on the other. See the insert in the upper left hand corner of your map. On the northeastern part, Russia is separated from Korea by the Tumen River.

There are about 33,000,000 people in the Republic of Korea. There are many, many farms and farmers. They grow rice, barley and soybeans.

The largest city in Korea is Seoul, which is also the capital. Can you find Seoul on your map? It is bustling with industries of many different types, such as textiles, construction, ship-building, and oil refineries.

Korea is a very mountainous country. See the orange parts of your map. Years ago the mountains were boundaries for clans (large families related through the father). It was not permissible to go over the mountain and live in the next village without special permission. But now one may come and go as one pleases.

In the olden days, all the people in each village, which was surrounded by the mountains, had one last name. There are approximately only 250 Korean last names. If you see the name Kim, Lee, Park, Ahn, Lim, Cho, Chae, Han, Choi, Kang, Ku, Ko, Lim, Oh, Noh, Sin, Shim, Yu, Yun, you can be fairly sure it is a Korean surname.

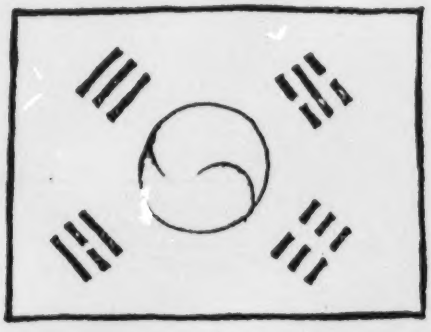
THE NATIONAL FLAG

The Korean flag symbolizes much of the thought, philosophy and mysticism of the Orient. The symbol, and sometimes the flag itself, is called Tae Geuk.

Depicted on the flag is a circle divided equally and locked in perfect balance. The upper (red) section represents the Yang and the lower (blue) section the Um. These two opposites express the dualism of the universe. There are heaven and earth, day and night, dark and light, construction and destruction, masculine and feminine, active and passive, heat and cold, plus and minus and so on.

The central thought in the Tae Geuk indicates that while there is a constant movement within the sphere of infinity, there are also balance and harmony. As a simple example, kindness and cruelty may be taken into consideration. If parents are kind to a child, it is good; if they are too kind to him, their kindness becomes a form of cruelty, for they spoil and weaken him and may lead him to become a vicious man and a source of disgrace to his ancestors.

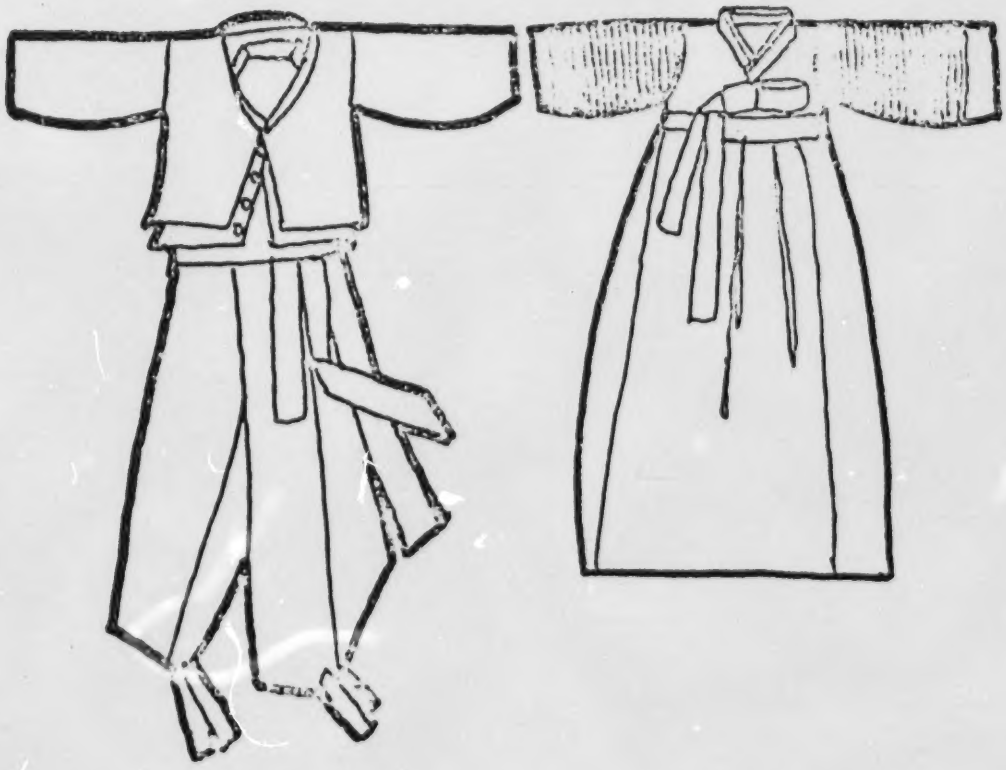
Three bars at each corner also carry the ideas of opposite and balance. The three unbroken lines stand for heaven; the opposite three broken lines represent the earth. At the lower left hand of the flag are two lines with a broken line in between. This symbolizes fire. The opposite is the symbol of water.



Child's Outfit

The child's outfit in your kit may either be for a boy or a girl. A traditional boy's outfit consists of a shirt, vest, and pants, while the traditional girl's outfit is in two parts--vest and skirt. If the outfit in your kit is for a girl, notice how the bow is tied with only one loop.

These outfits are examples of traditional Korean costumes worn for special occasions. For everyday wear, Korean children wear Western costumes made of various materials, such as cotton or synthetic blends.



Shoes and Socks

In every kit there are also a pair of rubber shoes and white cotton socks. The socks help keep the feet warm on cold wintry days. The rubber shoes may be worn for work and play, just as we wear rubber thongs everywhere in Hawaii.

Silk Purse

The silk purse in your kit was once used by children in the past to keep money.

Dolls

The two dolls in the kit are examples of the traditional male and female outfits worn in Korea. Notice the characteristic striped material, called saek dong. Saek dong is usually made out of silk threads and brocaded with special oriental designs. This cloth may be used for purses, dresses, and other clothing articles.

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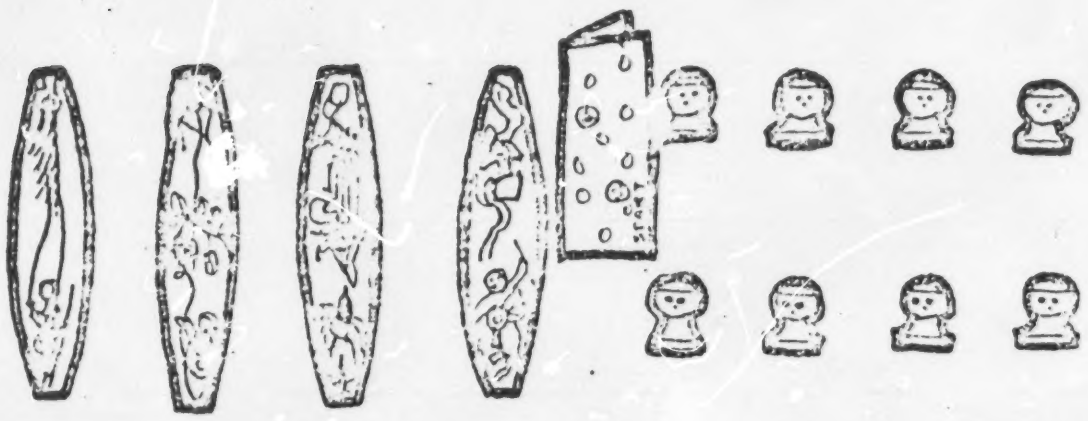
Fan

The fan is also made out of silk brocade in the bright colors Korean people love. The fan is used to keep cool in the warm summer months, as electric fans or air conditioners are infrequently found in Korea.

YUT GAME

The yut game originated in the ninth century during the Paekche dynasty. It is one of the oldest games played in Korea. Yut is generally played by two to four players, or by two to four teams, with each team comprised of two or three members. It is a popular New Year holiday game, but it is also played throughout the year by both children and adults in Korea.

A yut is made from the branch of a hard wood tree. It has a diameter of two to three centimeters. The branch is cut into a piece 20 to 25 centimeters in length, and is vertically cut into two pieces. However, the size may vary.



A player moves his pawn according to the figures shown by yut. The rules are:

5 moves: This is called moh. It is made if the four wooden pieces all show their backs.

4 moves: This is called yut. A player makes it if the four wooden pieces all show their faces.

3 moves: This is called gul. It is made if three of them show their faces.

2 moves: This is called kae, which is made if two of them show their faces.

1 move : This is called toh. It is made if only one of them shows its face.

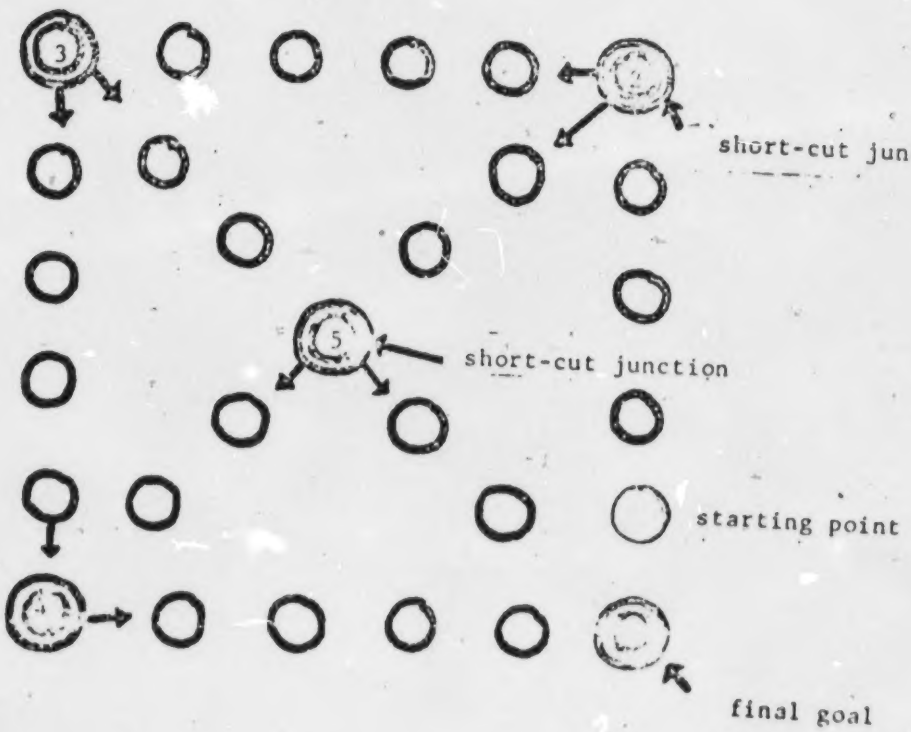
Eliminating: One can eliminate any pawn of his opponent when his pawn lands right on the spot where the opponent's is.

Short-cut move: This is possible only when one's pawn lands right on the spot of the short-cut junction.

Game over: The player who moves all four of his pawns from the starting point to the final goal earlier than his opponent wins the game.

Your kit has a yut game, consisting of four yut, four green pawns, four red pawns, and a pink cloth playing board. You can improvise your own yut game, as many Korean children do. Trace the playing board, redrawn below, on a separate piece of paper or cloth. Use buttons, shells, small stones, checker pieces, or other similar substitute for the pawns. Coins would be a suitable substitute for the yut, as "heads" for coins would correspond to the faces of the yut and "tails" would substitute for the backs of the yut.

"YUT" B O A R D



MUSIC

Cassette Tape-recording

On the cassette tape-recording included in your kit are many traditional songs and sounds of Korea.

Side 1 was recorded from the record "Songs of Korea" (RLP 8031 Request Records, 443 West 49th Street, New York 19, New York). The famous Korean opera singer Han Pyung Sook sings with native orchestra and chorus the following authentic Korean Songs:

1. A RI RANG Perhaps one of the most popular old Korean songs in existence, this is the tale of a wandering lover in search of his beloved as he roams up and down the mountains.

2. NONG-BOO-GAH This gay farmer's song from Cholla province is influenced by classic music which flourished there.

3. NIL LI RI A A cheerful Korean chant originating in Kyung-Gi province, usually accompanied by a Korean flute called a "Koo-oom".

4. DAN-SO Dan-So is a flute two feet, five inches long, with only six holes, but with a range of two and a half octaves. It was invented in the time of King Shinmun of Silla.

5. KWAE-JI-NA-CHING CHING NAH NEH "There are as many stars in the sky as there are pebbles on the riverside." This is one of the ancient folk songs of Korea, popular from Kangwon in the north to Kyunsang in the south.

6. DAH RAH! DAH RAH! "Moon, Moon, Ah, Shiny Moon." This is a very popular children's melody sung as they play in the street.

7. YANG SAHN DO A laborer's song for soloist and chorus, a favorite since the last years of the YI dynasty.

8. NCHDLE KAHANG BYUN This song is wistfully reflective of the lonely impermanent life of the Han river racing toward the sea, in constrast to the green willow trees along the shore, bending happily in the summer breeze.

9. TORAJI TAHRYUNG A young girl goes out to the field to pick the Toraji roots, but instead she daydreams about her lover.

10. CHOON-PI-CHOON-Heung Another of the favorite "playing and dancing" songs similar to Kahng Gang Sool Le which tells about the joy and sorrow of Spring.

11. JIN-DO A RI RANG A love song from the A Ri Rang Hills of Jindo Island.

12. KANG GANG SOOL LE In Cholla province, this song is usually performed by a circle of women holding hands and dancing, especially popular on the evenings of the full moon of the first and eighth month of the lunar calendar.

13. MIRYANG ARIRANG This song originated at Miryang, in the south Kyungsang province, where the magistrate's lovely and virtuous daughter Arang was desired by a village youth. One moonlit night, he arranged with her maid servant to bring Arang to Yang Nam Ro. There, in the presence of the flowers and river, his insistent passion blinded his reason. When the girl refused his offers of love, he plunged a dagger into her heart.

14. PAHGYUN POCKPO "Pahgyun Pockpo's water falling down, swirling around without mercy." This song originates from the tale of the famous lover Kaesang.

15. MONG-GUM-PO TAHRYUNG The sailors from the western coast of Korea, especially in the Mon-Gum-Po, sing this melody as they return to port, vigorously pulling the oars to its rhythm.

The first part of Side 2 of your cassette taperecording was recorded from the record "Spring at Hometown" produced by the Asia Record Company, Seoul, Korea. The children's songs on this tape include:

1. Raindrops
2. The Half Moon in the Day
3. A Bell Bird
4. Thinking of My Brother
5. A Squirrel
6. A New Year's Day
7. Watching the Moon
8. The Half Moon
9. A Cricket Chirping Night
10. Footprints of Shoes
11. Children's Song
12. Our Wish
13. My Friend
14. Mountain Breeze and River Breeze
15. Mother's Love
16. The Pine Tree
17. Who's Sleeping?
18. Spring at Hometown
19. A Mountain Echo
20. An Icicle

The second part of Side 2 of your cassette taperecording was taken from the record "Sounds of Korea" produced by the Institute of Korean Studies. This is what you will hear:

Music (A Ri Rang)
Cultivating rice fields
Farmers' band
Buddhist temple (worship, bell, drum, music of nature)
Funeral procession
Ironing clothes
Children's song (Longing for Brother)
Frogs and cicadas
Bamboo flute
Women around a well
Chopping vegetables
"Mudahng" (Sorceress)
Fisherfolk
Music (Kangkang Swolle)

Buhk (Drum)

Many Korean dances are accompanied with the beat of Korean drums. They come in all sizes. The toy drum in your kit is modeled after the type of drum called the buhk. It is made of cowskin on one side and goat skin on the other. The goat skin has a higher pitch and is hit by the right hand. The cowskin has a lower pitch and is hit by the left. The strings along the side of the drum can be tightened by moving the leather pieces toward the base of the triangle formed by the cord. This will change the tone of the drum.

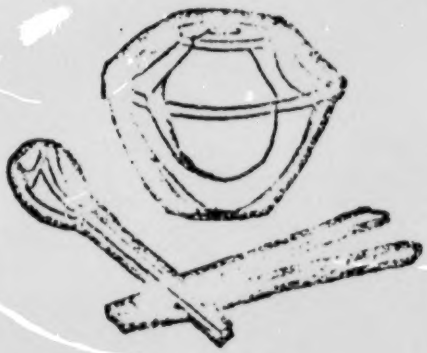
SOME KOREAN PHRASES

Would you like to learn some Korean words and phrases?

I love you.	Sa rang hae yo.
Thank you.	Kam sa ham ni da (or ko map sum-nida)
Hello or How are you?	Annyong ha say yo.
Mother	Uh Muh ni.
Father	A buh ji.
Friend	Chin gu
Good-bye (say to a person leaving, "Go peacefully")	Annyong hi ka se yo.
Good-bye (say to a person staying "Stay peacefully")	Annyong hi ke se yo.

Brass Eating Utensils

Korean craftsmen are famous for their workmenship with brass. The brass eating utensils--bowl with cover for rice, spoon, and chopsticks--are included in your kit to show how beautiful Korean brass products are. However, because brass is difficult to keep shiny, Koreans today often use porcelain eating utensils.



In Korea people eat three meals a day. Favorite foods are rice, kim chee made many different ways, miso soup, and fish. The family sits on the floor around a low table, uses chopsticks, and eats rice from a bowl. All the food except the rice and soup is placed in the center of the table for all to share.

Because Korea is a peninsula surrounded on three sides by water, the sea and its products are important to us. The men go out to sea on small fishing boats, called ko ki bae (fishing boat), to catch red snappers, sharks, codfish, tuna and two other fish called jogi (corvina) and kalchi (hair-tail).

From codfish Koreans make a famous dish called taegu (codfish). From the sea Korea also produces the best seaweed in the world called keem which makes delicious sushi.

If you would like to taste Korean food, ask your parents to take you to one of the many Korean restaurants in Hawaii. They could also try the following recipes.

KOREAN RECIPES*

Kal Bi
(Barbequed Short Ribs)

3 lb short ribs
1¼ cups soy sauce
5 cloves garlic, minced
1 teaspoon minced ginger
¼ cup raw sugar
2 tablespoons sesame oil
1½ tablespoons sesame seed
¼ teaspoon pepper
2 tablespoons chopped green onion

Cutting down to within 1 inch from bone, cut meat in ½-inch slices. The cut meat should look like a fan. Combine remaining ingredients. Just before broiling, pour sauce on meat. Place meat on rack of broiler pan and broil 5 inches from unit in electric oven for ten minutes. Turn and broil ten more minutes. Makes six servings.

Watercress Salad

1 bunch (1 lb) watercress
1½ cups boiling water
1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons soy sauce
1½ tablespoons toasted sesame seed
2 tablespoons vinegar
1 tablespoon chopped green onions
¼ teaspoon cayenne or finely chopped Hawaiian red pepper
1/8 teaspoon minced garlic
¼ teaspoon sugar, if desired

Wash watercress and remove tough portion of stems. Cut into 1½-inch lengths. Place in boiling water, and salt, and cook three minutes. Drain thoroughly. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Chill. Makes six servings.

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*The first three recipes were taken from Concempory Korean Recipes prepared by the Home Service Department, Hawaiian Electric Company.

The Korean Confection recipe is from What's Cookin' in Hawaii, Honolulu Newspaper Agency Advertiser Supplement, September 15, 1975.

Rice and Bean Sprouts

1 cup bean sprouts
1 teaspoon salad oil
1 green onion, chopped
1 clove garlic, minced
2 teaspoons toasted sesame seed
2 tablespoons soy sauce
2 cups rice
3 cups water

Rinse and drain bean sprouts. Heat oil in saucepan; add bean sprouts, green onion, garlic, sesame seed, and soy sauce. Cook two minutes, stirring constantly. Wash and drain rice; stir into bean sprout mixture. Add water and cook until rice is done. Makes six servings.

Korean Confection

1 cup sifted flour
½ teaspoon salt
1½ teaspoons baking powder
3 tablespoons sugar
¼ teaspoon cinnamon
1/3 cup cold water
1/3 cup chopped walnuts
1/3 cup chopped seedless dates
1 quart oil for frying
¼ cup sifted confectioner's sugar

Combine dry ingredients. Slowly add cold water and mix well. Roll dough out on lightly floured board to 1/8-inch thickness. Cut into desired shape with cookie cutter; press nuts and dates in center. Deep fry in oil heated to 375 degrees until golden brown, about three minutes on both sides. Drain on absorbent paper. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar and serve warm. Yield: about 1½ dozen.

BOOKS

A Korean Legend Hungbu and Nolbu and Korean Songs We Can Sing

We hope you enjoyed listening to the songs and sounds of Korea on the cassette taperecording in the kit. Now you can sing some Korean songs. The book in your kit, A Korean Legend Hungbu and Nolbu and Korean Songs We Can Sing has the words and music for four songs Korean children enjoy singing: A Ri Rang, San To Kki (Dear Mountain Rabbit), Tae Guk Kki (Our National Flag), and Moo Goong Hwa (Purple Hibiscus). You can sing both the Korean and English translations.

We Want to be Americans: A Story of a Korean Immigrant Family in Hawaii

Photographs and story of a recent Korean immigrant family in Honolulu presents an inside view of their aspirations, their anxieties and their lifestyle.

WHERE WE OBTAINED EVERYTHING

The Ethnic Resource Center for the Pacific has developed other kits (Things Chinese, Things Japanese, Things Hawaiian, and Things Philippine) in which artifacts were purchased locally and we encourage users to xerox the teacher's guide and purchase their own kit if they desire to do so.

However, the items in this kit were purchased for the Center by the Korean National Commission for UNESCO in cooperation with the Korean Consulate General. To these two offices we are deeply indebted for helping to purchase the lovely and authentic Korean items in this kit.

You may be able to purchase similiar items at the following retail outlets:

Korean Shopping Corner
835 Keeaumoku Street — Phone: 955-5190
Honolulu, Hawaii

OK Soon's House of Fine Gifts
100 N. Beretania Street — Phone: 537-5696
139 Cultural Plaza Chinatown
Honolulu, Hawaii

The books were obtained from the following sources:

General Assistance Center for the Pacific
c/o Educational Foundations
1776 University Ave., WA2-222 — Phone: 948-7859
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

We Want to be Americans: A Story of a Korean Immigrant Family in Hawaii.
Distributed to all Department of Education schools.

Ethnic Resource Center for the Pacific
c/o Educational Foundations
1776 University Ave., WA2-222 — Phone: 948-7859
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